--- RG-233(L) - “Series of 1883” - 50 Cigars - BLACK - 4th BABN Contract - 1886-92 ---

--- *lithographed* on vertical mesh wove - with 4 mm. Montreal blue controls ---

--- perforated 12 - “three beavers *with foliage*” - 400 x 22 mm. - scanned at 40% scale ---

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The catalogue lists the “Series of 1883” black 50 cigar strip as follows:

--- *lithographed* - 400 x 22 mm - three beavers *with foliage* ---

RG-233(L) - 50 cigars, black, perf 12, on vertical mesh wove, with 4 mm blue controls
RG-234(L) - 50 cigars, black, *coarse roulette*, on vertical mesh wove, with 4 mm blue controls
RG-236(L) - 50 cigars, black, *coarse roulette*, on vertical mesh wove, with 5 mm blue controls

--- *recess printed* by hand press - 400 x 22 mm - three beavers *with foliage* ---

RG-239 - 50 cigars, black, perf 12, with 5 mm blue controls
RG-240 - 50 cigars, black, *coarse roulette*, with 5 mm blue controls

--- *recess printed* by rotary press - 405 x 22 mm - a single beaver *without foliage* ---

RG-245 - 50 cigars, black, perf 12, with 4 mm blue controls
RG-246 - 50 cigars, black, *coarse roulette*, with 4 mm blue controls
RG-248 - 50 cigars, black, *coarse roulette*, with 5 mm blue controls

The 4 mm. control numbers were applied to the strips in Montreal - prior to their 1887 transfer back to Ottawa.
The 5 mm. control numbers were applied to the strips in Ottawa - after their 1887 return from Montreal.

It appears that *recess printing* (by hand press, and by rotary press) had begun in Montreal under the **4th BABN Contract** prior to returning to Ottawa in 1887. Thus the 4 mm. Montreal controls appear on the *recess printed* strips.

3rd BABN Contract (1878-1886)	John McKay records 2,102,250 *lithographed* “50 Black Cigars” as ‘delivered’.
4th BABN Contract (1886-1892)	John McKay records 5,264,400 *lithographed* and 1,773,000 hand press *recess printed* copies of “50 Black Cigars” as ‘delivered’.
5th BABN Contract (1892-1897)	John McKay records 4,451,278 *lithographed* plus 1,343,445 hand press and 3,270,627 rotary press *recess printed* “50 Black Cigars” as ‘delivered’.
5th BABN Supplement (1897-98)	John McKay records 1,588,025 copies of “50 Black Cigars” *recess printed* by rotary press as ‘delivered’.

These had last sheets had been printed under the **5th BABN Contract** and remained in BABN stock when they lost the printing contract to ABN in 1897. By mutual agreement they were made available to the ‘Inland Revenue Department’ while ABN worked ‘up-to-speed’ with the die preparation and printing of the “Series of 1897”.

John McKay differentiated his ***recess printed*** strips as *hand press* and as *steam press* strips. I presume that the *steam press* is a *rotary press*, perhaps I am in error. It should be noted that John McKay was recording ‘deliveries’ under a particular Contract. It is quite probable that all of the *lithographed* strips were produced in Montreal under the **3rd** and **4th BABN Contracts**, with the final block of 4,451,278 *lithographed* copies, listed by John McKay as ‘delivered’ under the **5th BABN Contract**, actually having been printed in Montreal under the **4th BABN Contract** - thus prior to the BABN shift back to Ottawa in 1887. I have not estimated the control numbers as if all of the 11,817,928 *lithographed* copies were control numbered in Montreal at the time of their printing. Perhaps this is not so, and some of the *recess printed* sheets may have received control numbering during (and thus cutting into) this *lithographed* control number run.

Some strips measure 405 mm. overall, others measure 400 mm. Were the longer strips printed by rotary press, with the increased length due to the bending of the plates to fit the press?

--- the estimated control numbers ---

3rd BABN Contract (1878-1886)	2,102,250 lithographed	**000001** to 2-**102250** - **RG-233-234(L)**
4th BABN Contract (1886-1892)	5,264,400 lithographed	2-**102251** to 7-**366650** - **RG-233-234(L)**
4th BABN Contract (1886-1892)	1,773,000 recess (hand press)	7-**366651** to 9-**139650** - **RG-239-240**
5th BABN Contract (1892-1897)	1,343,445 recess (hand press)	9-**139651** to 10-**483095** - **RG-239-240**
5th BABN Contract (1892-1897)	4,451,278 lithographed	10-**483096** to 14-**934373** - **RG-233-234(L)**
5th BABN Contract (1892-1897)	3,270,627 recess (rotary press)	14-**934374** to 18-**205000** - **RG-245 to 248**
5th Supplement (1897-1898)	1,588,025 recess (rotary press)	18-**205001** to 19-**793025** - **RG-245 to 248**
	19,793,025	

--- *lithographed* on vertical mesh wove ---

--- RG-233(L) - 400 x 22 mm - three beavers *with foliage* - 4 mm blue controls ---

★**RG-233(L)** - 50 cigars, black, perf 12, *lithographed* on vertical mesh wove, with 4 mm. control **349751**, three beavers *with foliage* - from the 3rd or 4th BABN Contract

★**RG-233(L) CP** - 50 cigars, black, perf 12, *lithographed* on horizontal mesh wove, with 4 mm. control **700813**, 405 mm. - three beavers *with foliage*, manuscript *Cancelled* - dated *3 / 8 / 87* on the back thus from the 4th BABN Contract prior to their 1887 Ottawa return

026704	RG-233(L)	50 cigars, black, perf 12, lithographed on horizontal mesh wove, roller cancelled **TOBACCO / 21-17 / CIGARS**
036274	RG-233(L)	50 cigars, black, perf 12, lithographed on horizontal mesh wove, roller cancelled **TOBACCO / 21-17 / CIGARS**
036290	RG-233(L)	50 cigars, black, perf 12, lithographed on horizontal mesh wove
040349	RG-233(L)	50 cigars, black, perf 12, lithographed on horizontal mesh wove, roller cancelled **TOBACCO / 21-17 / CIGARS**
115982	RG-233(L)	50 cigars, black, perf 12, lithographed on horizontal mesh wove
115989	RG-233(L)	50 cigars, black, perf 12, lithographed on horizontal mesh wove
115993	RG-233(L)	50 cigars, black, perf 12, lithographed on horizontal mesh wove
120848	RG-233(L)	50 cigars, black, perf 12, lithographed on horizontal mesh wove
155801	RG-233(L)	50 cigars, black, perf 12, lithographed on horizontal mesh wove, roller cancelled **TOBACCO / 21-17 / CIGARS**
155805	RG-233(L)	50 cigars, black, perf 12, lithographed on horizontal mesh wove, roller cancelled **TOBACCO / 21-17 / CIGARS**
155809	RG-233(L)	50 cigars, black, perf 12, lithographed on horizontal mesh wove, roller cancelled **TOBACCO / 21-17 / CIGARS**
188047	RG-233(L)	50 cigars, black, perf 12, lithographed on horizontal mesh wove
188417	RG-233(L)	50 cigars, black, perf 12, lithographed on horizontal mesh wove, roller cancelled **TOBACCO / 21-17 / CIGARS**
211239	RG-233(L)	50 cigars, black, perf 12, lithographed on horizontal mesh wove, roller cancelled **TOBACCO / 21-17 / CIGARS**
323315	RG-233(L)	50 cigars, black, perf 12, lithographed on horizontal mesh wove
324221	RG-233(L)	50 cigars, black, perf 12, lithographed on horizontal mesh wove, roller cancelled **TOBACCO / 2-9 / CIGARS**
349751★	RG-233(L)	50 cigars, black, perf 12, lithographed on horizontal mesh wove
556929	RG-233(L)	50 cigars, black, perf 12, lithographed on horizontal mesh wove, roller cancelled **TOBACCO / 21-17 / CIGARS**

585765		RG-233(L)	50 cigars, black, perf 12, lithographed on horizontal mesh wove, roller cancelled **TOBACCO / 21-17 / CIGARS**
606655		RG-233(L)	50 cigars, black, perf 12, lithographed on horizontal mesh wove
614633		RG-233(L)	50 cigars, black, perf 12, lithographed on horizontal mesh wove, roller cancelled **TOBACCO / 21-17 / CIGARS**
614658		RG-233(L)	50 cigars, black, perf 12, lithographed on horizontal mesh wove, roller cancelled **TOBACCO / 21-17 / CIGARS**
626591		RG-233(L)	50 cigars, black, perf 12, lithographed on horizontal mesh wove
628591		RG-233(L)	50 cigars, black, perf 12, lithographed on horizontal mesh wove, roller cancelled **TOBACCO / 15-17 / CIGARS**
700073		RG-233(L)	50 cigars, black, perf 12, lithographed on horizontal mesh wove, roller cancelled **TOBACCO / 21-17 / CIGARS**
700111		RG-233(L)	50 cigars, black, perf 12, lithographed on horizontal mesh wove, roller cancelled **TOBACCO / 21-17 / CIGARS**
700813★	08/87	RG-233(L) CP	50 cigars, black, perf 12, lithographed on horizontal mesh wove, manuscript *Cancelled* - dated *3 / 8 / 87* on the back
708345		RG-233(L)	50 cigars, black, perf 12, lithographed on horizontal mesh wove
756876		RG-233(L)	50 cigars, black, perf 12, lithographed on horizontal mesh wove
761774		RG-233(L)	50 cigars, black, perf 12, lithographed on horizontal mesh wove
877542		RG-233(L)	50 cigars, black, perf 12, lithographed on horizontal mesh wove
939817		RG-233(L)	50 cigars, black, perf 12, lithographed on horizontal mesh wove, roller cancelled **TOBACCO / 5-17 / CIGARS**

★**RG-233(L)n** - 50 cigars, black, perf 12, lithographed on horizontal mesh wove, without control numbering, three beavers *with foliage* - probably from the 3rd BABN Contract

I am not crazy about the Lee Brandom distinction of 4 mm. and 4½ mm. control numbers used by BABN. The larger digits vary slightly in height from figure to figure and, without being so fussy, I prefer simply to use 4 mm. for the *small* Montreal applied controls, and 5 mm. for the *larger* Ottawa applied controls.

--- *lithographed* on vertical mesh wove ---

--- RG-234(L) - *coarse roulette* - "three beavers *with foliage*" - 400 x 22 mm - 4 mm blue controls - scanned at 40% scale ---

★**RG-234(L)** - 50 cigars, black, coarse roulette, lithographed on vertical mesh wove, with 4 mm. control **571870**, three beavers *with foliage* - from the 3rd or 4th BABN Contract

Judging by the John McKay report, the unrecorded prefix on any of the following 4 mm. control numbered strips could vary to about 4 million, when production shifted to Ottawa.

044010	RG-234(L)	50 cigars, lithographed, coarse roulette
528690	RG-234(L)	50 cigars, lithographed, coarse roulette, rollered **TOBACCO / 6-17 / CIGARS**
571813	RG-234(L)	50 cigars, lithographed, coarse roulette, rollered **TOBACCO / 21-17 / CIGARS**
571827	RG-234(L)	50 cigars, lithographed, coarse roulette, rollered **TOBACCO / 21-17 / CIGARS**
571870★	RG-234(L)	50 cigars, lithographed, coarse roulette, rollered **TOBACCO / 21-17 / CIGARS**
573579	RG-234(L)	50 cigars, lithographed, coarse roulette, rollered **TOBACCO / 21-17 / CIGARS**
610684	RG-234(L)	50 cigars, lithographed, coarse roulette, rollered **TOBACCO / 21-17 / CIGARS**
705475 ★	RG-234(L)	50 cigars, lithographed, coarse roulette, an unreadable purple roller cancel
904553	RG-234(L)	50 cigars, lithographed, coarse roulette, rollered **TOBACCO / 6-17 / CIGARS**
918125	RG-234(L)	50 cigars, lithographed, coarse roulette
921607	RG-234(L)	50 cigars, lithographed, coarse roulette, rollered **TOBACCO / 6-17 / CIGARS**
955487	RG-234(L)	50 cigars, lithographed, coarse roulette, rollered **TOBACCO / 6-17 / CIGARS**

These early 4 mm. control numbers cover over *four* million strips. It's too bad that they didn't adopt their 1935 schema of *prefixing a letter* to the numerical control code back in the 1880's. At least the combined control number runs which follow provide an indication of the relative abundance (or scarcity) of a particular strip.

--- *lithographed* on vertical mesh wove ---

--- RG-236(L) - *coarse roulette* - "three beavers *with foliage*" - 400 x 22 mm - 5 mm blue controls - scanned at 40% scale ---

The *lithographed* black fifty cigar "Series of 1883" strips covered by the 3rd and 4th BABN Contracts using the three beavers with *foliage design* covered 11,817,928 copies. Once past **999999** BABN reset the control number to **000001** without adding the million prefix. The Montreal 4 mm. control numbers run through about four sets of one million strips. The Ottawa BABN facility (which was re-opened in 1887) used the 5 mm. controls in the latter part of the **5th BABN Contract**.

★**RG-236(L)** - 50 cigars, black, coarse roulette, lithographed on vertical mesh wove, with 5 mm. control **725878**, three beavers *with foliage* - from the 5th BABN Contract

171895★	RG-236(L)	50 cigars, lithographed, coarse roulette - clipped
725878 ★	RG-236(L)	50 cigars, lithographed, coarse roulette, rollered **TOBACCO / 21-17 / CIGARS**

--- *recess printed* by hand press on vertical mesh wove ---

--- G-239 - perforated 12 - "three beavers *with foliage*" - 400 x 22 mm - 5 mm blue controls - scanned at 40% scale ---

★**RG-239** - 50 cigars, black, perf 12, recess printed by hand press on vertical mesh wove, with 5 mm. control **211823**, rollered **TOBACCO / 13-17 / CIGARS** - three beavers *with foliage*

182113	G-239	50 cigars, perf 12, recess printed on vertical mesh wove, roller cancelled **TOBACCO / 13-17 / CIGARS**
198474	G-239	50 cigars, perf 12, recess printed on vertical mesh wove,
211823★	G-239	50 cigars, perf 12, recess printed on vertical mesh wove, roller cancelled **TOBACCO / 13-17 / CIGARS**
549279	G-239	50 cigars, perf 12, recess printed on vertical mesh wove
699799★	G-239	50 cigars, perf 12, recess printed on vertical mesh wove
855049	G-239	50 cigars, perf 12, recess printed on vertical mesh wove

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--- *recess printed* by hand press on vertical mesh wove ---

--- RG-240 - *coarse roulette* - three beavers *with foliage* - scanned at 40% scale ---

★**RG-240** - 50 cigars, black, coarse roulette, *recess printed* on vertical mesh wove, with 5 mm. control **972107**, rollered **CIGARS / □ 17 □ / CIGARS** - with three beavers at the right end - both examples were used as bands

317156	RG-240	50 cigars, recess printed, coarse roulette, rollered **CIGARS / □ 17 □ / CIGARS**
972107★	RG-240	50 cigars, recess printed, coarse roulette, rollered **CIGARS / □ 17 □ / CIGARS**

These two 5 mm. control numbered sections (the perforated **RG-240** and the coarse roulette **RG-239**) were probably a continuous sequence with the separation chosen by the user. They have been divided here merely for recording convenience - both were control numbered in Ottawa.

Probably some of my past confusion regarding the 4 mm. and 5 mm. control numbers is due to the fact that BABN over the years was producing stamps in two locations. The 4 mm. Montreal control numbering was applied prior to the 1887 move back to Ottawa, and control-free sheets (actually printed in Montreal prior to the 1887 move) will carry the 5 mm. Ottawa controls when numbered in Ottawa.

--- *recess printed* by hand press on vertical mesh wove ---

--- RG-246 - *coarse roulette* - a single beaver *without foliage* - 400 x 22 mm - 4 mm blue controls - scanned at 40% scale ---

These appear to be Montreal control numbered strips from the **5th BABN Contract** and should carry an *un-printed* prefix from 13 to 16 and 18 to 19 on their control numbers. As surplus they would have been recess printed *in Ottawa* by hand press under the **5th BABN Contract** (1892-1897) but remained in unused when BABN lost the printing Contract in 1897. Consequently they were made available under the **5th BABN Contract Supplement** and received their 4 mm. control numbering in Montreal.

★**RG-246** - 50 cigars, black, *coarse roulette*, *recess printed* by hand press on vertical mesh wove, with 4 mm. control **323302**, a single beaver without foliage - control numbered in Montreal

323302★	RG-246	50 cigars, coarse roulette, recess printed on vertical mesh wove
323354	RG-246	50 cigars, coarse roulette, recess printed on vertical mesh wove
323464★	RG-246	50 cigars, coarse roulette, recess printed on vertical mesh wove
389108	RG-246	50 cigars, coarse roulette, recess printed on vertical mesh wove, roller cancelled **TOBACCO / 16-17 / CIGARS**
389109	RG-246	50 cigars, coarse roulette, recess printed on vertical mesh wove, roller cancelled **TOBACCO / 16-17 / CIGARS**
394366	RG-246	50 cigars, coarse roulette, recess printed on vertical mesh wove, roller cancelled **TOBACCO / 16-17 / CIGARS**
765950	RG-246	50 cigars, coarse roulette, recess printed on vertical mesh wove, roller cancelled **TOBACCO / 16-17 / CIGARS**

--- RG-245 - perforated 12 - a single beaver *without foliage* - 400 x 22 mm - 4 mm blue controls - scanned at 40% scale ---

★**RG-245** - 50 cigars, black, perf 12, *recess printed* by hand press on vertical mesh wove, with 4 mm. control **484523**, a single beaver *without foliage* - produced in Montreal under the 5th BABN Contract

414784	RG-245	50 cigars, perf 12, recess printed on vertical mesh wove, roller cancelled **TOBACCO / 16-17 / CIGARS**
484523★	RG-245	50 cigars, perf 12, recess printed on vertical mesh wove, roller cancelled **TOBACCO / 6-17 / CIGARS**
484530	RG-245	50 cigars, perf 12, recess printed on vertical mesh wove, roller cancelled **TOBACCO / 6-17 / CIGARS**
946572	RG-245	50 cigars, perf 12, recess printed on vertical mesh wove

--- *recess printed* by rotary press on vertical mesh wove ---

--- RG-248 - *coarse roulette* - a single beaver *without foliage* - 5 mm blue controls - 405 x 22 mm - scanned at 40% scale ---

★**RG-248** - 50 cigars, black, *coarse roulette*, *recess printed* by rotary press on vertical mesh wove, with 5 mm. control **286046**,

241770	RG-248	50 cigars, coarse roulette, recess printed on vertical mesh wove paper, roller cancelled **TOBACCO / 6-17 / CIGARS**
275276★	RG-248	50 cigars, coarse roulette, recess printed on vertical mesh wove paper, roller cancelled **TOBACCO / 6-17 / CIGARS**
286046★	RG-248	50 cigars, coarse roulette, recess printed on vertical mesh wove paper
287220	RG-248	50 cigars, coarse roulette, recess printed on vertical mesh wove paper
304360	RG-248	50 cigars, coarse roulette, recess printed on vertical mesh wove paper
312492	RG-248	50 cigars, coarse roulette, recess printed on vertical mesh wove paper
314288	RG-248	50 cigars, coarse roulette, recess printed on vertical mesh wove paper, roller cancelled **1-17 / CIGARS**
314630	RG-248	50 cigars, coarse roulette, recess printed on vertical mesh wove paper, roller cancelled **1-17 / CIGARS**
337873	RG-248	50 cigars, coarse roulette, recess printed on vertical mesh wove paper
855278	RG-248	50 cigars, coarse roulette, recess printed on vertical mesh wove paper

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